PLACER COUNTY — S.M.A.R.T.

<u>S</u>ystems <u>M</u>anagement, <u>A</u>dvocacy, and <u>R</u>esource <u>T</u>eam C.S.O.C./A.C.C.E.S.S.

Children's System of Care/Adult, Child & Community Emergency Services System

*Member Agencies:

| Superior Court | Juvenile Court | Department of Health and Human Services

□ Probation Department □ Placer County Office of Education



January 2, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us from 8:30 to 11:30 on January 24 to learn about Placer County's plans to begin a new Kinship Support Services Program. The program, which we expect to implement in late 2007, will provide community-based family support services to grandparents and other relatives who care for children outside their parents' homes.

During the past five years, Kinship Support Services Programs have been established in many California counties. Operated by community-based organizations, Kinship Support Services Programs offer a variety of services to caregivers and their children. Determined by an assessment of local needs, services may include respite and recreational programs for caregivers and children, caregiver support groups, legal assistance, information and referral services, school advocacy, workshops for caregivers, mental health assessment and on-going counseling, tutoring, summer camp programs, and long term planning for children and families.

In December, Placer County received a grant from the California Department of Social Services to begin the planning process for a Kinship Support Services Program for Placer County residents. Over the next few months, we will join community partners and relative caregivers to identify the needs of kinship caregivers, and to assess the services and supports already available in Placer County. We will then design a program to meet the identified needs and issue an RFP/RFA to identify a community-based organization to operate the program.

On January 24, from 8:30 to 11:30 am, a meeting will be held at Placer Kids, 11990 Heritage Oak Pl # 3, Auburn, to provide information on the new program, and to explore with community partners how to best gather information on the needs of, and services available to relative caregivers in Placer County. During the meeting we will describe similar programs in other counties, and discuss how a program might work in Placer County.

We hope you will join us and offer your experience and insight on how we can best serve relative caregivers. If you would like more information or are interested in attending the meeting, please call or email Lisa Hilt, 530-886-2847, lhilt@placer.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Michelle Labrador, LCSW Program Manager

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